

WISCONSIN ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS



Wisconsin is the proud home of the Wisconsin (SE Area) Clean Cities Coalition.

Overview

The State of Wisconsin does not have any incentives for private sector alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). However, Wisconsin municipalities are eligible to apply for competitive cost sharing grants for the added costs of AFVs. The maximum grant is \$2,500 per auto and \$10,000 for trucks, vans, or buses. Each municipality is limited to a total of \$50,000. Several utilities in Wisconsin are active in promoting natural gas vehicles (NGVs), including cash rebate offers from Wisconsin Gas, Wisconsin Natural Gas, and Madison Gas and Electric for the purchase or conversion of NGVs.

Highlights

- \$ \$500 rebate from Wisconsin Gas for conversion to a natural gas bi-fuel vehicle - the rebate for the purchase of a dedicated NGV is \$1,000
- \$ \$500 rebate from Wisconsin Natural Gas for conversions or purchase of an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) NGV
- \$ \$200 to \$400 rebate from Madison Gas and Electric for conversions or purchases of an OEM AFV
- \$ Municipalities may apply for grants of up to \$2,500 - \$10,000 per vehicle for AFV purchases for conversions

State Incentives

- \$ The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration handles all alternative fuels grant programs. Currently, Wisconsin is making cost sharing grants available to Wisconsin municipalities for the added costs of AFVs. The total funding for the cost sharing program is \$175,000, to be allocated through a competitive grant application process. The funding for this program comes from Federal oil overcharge money.

The maximum grant is \$2,500 per auto and \$10,000 for trucks, vans, or buses. Each municipality is limited to a total of \$50,000. In order to learn more about alternative fuels and collect representative data, the program duration will be two years, starting from the time of vehicle delivery or conversion kit installation.

Grant recipients must join a state research program to participate. Participants will track operating and maintenance costs, fuel economy, and cold start information. They will participate in user convenience surveys, and bring vehicles to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for comprehensive emissions testing on a semi-annual basis, over a 2-year period. Fees for emissions testing will be charged and paid by the municipality.

For general information about the program, contact Jennifer Diesman at (608) 267-2715. For technical questions, contact Tracy Kellner or Melissa Pike, UW-Milwaukee Center for Alternative Fuels, at (414) 229-3881.

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Utility/Private Incentives

- \$ **Madison Gas and Electric** offers cash rebates of \$200 to \$400 per vehicle for conversions or purchases of an OEM AFV. Rebates are available until December 31, 1995. Call for information on the rebate program in 1996 and beyond. Madison Gas and Electric provides low-interest loans for vehicle conversions and financing to build refueling stations. Contact John Coleman at (608) 252-7148 for more information.
- \$ **Wisconsin Gas** customers are eligible for rebates for the conversion of a vehicle to run on natural gas, or the purchase of a factory-equipped NGV. The rebate for conversion to a bi-fuel vehicle is \$500, and the rebate for the purchase of a dedicated NGV is \$1,000. Customer rebates are available for medium and heavy duty and off-road applications. Wisconsin Gas provides financing and leasing options for vehicles or refueling infrastructure. For customers considering converting 1 or 2 vehicles to test NGVs, Wisconsin Gas will load a FuelMaker refueling appliance for up to 2 years. Wisconsin Gas operates 2 public compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling stations. Contact Bob Inda at (414) 291-6426 for additional information.
- \$ **Wisconsin Natural Gas** offers a \$500 per vehicle rebate for conversions or purchase of an OEM NGV. Customer rebates for larger vehicles are based on 50¢/therm times the annual fuel usage. Wisconsin Natural Gas will work with fleet owners to customize a rebate to meet their specific needs and will offer financial assistance for refueling stations on a case-by-case basis. To assist customers wishing to convert 1 or 2 vehicles to test NGVs, Wisconsin Natural Gas offers the free use of a FuelMaker fueling station for up to 1 year. Wisconsin Natural Gas also offers technical assistance to anyone wishing to explore the NGV option. For additional information, call Gary Evans at (414) 574-2040.

Alternative Transportation Fuels, Inc. provides technical support for conversions and will provide a propane refuel dispenser and automated card reader at a fleet customer's site, at no charge to the customer. Alternative Transportation Fuels, Inc. also operates public refueling stations. For more information, contact James Garner at (708) 575-0575.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) is part of a joint public/private partnership to promote 85% ethanol (E85) as an alternative transportation fuel. Through a pilot grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, NEVC provides forgivable loans for the installation of public E85 refueling facilities. For additional information, contact Phil Lambert at (314) 635-8445.

Public Service Corporation provides information about the advantages of NGVs and will assist customers in obtaining equipment, conversions, and government funding. For more information, contact William Schreiner at (414) 433-2946.

Wisconsin Fuel and Light offers station financing, construction assistance, temporary refueling facilities, and construction assistance on a case-by-case basis. Call Rick Braenne at (715) 847-6217 for more information.

Laws & Regulations

The Alternative Fuels Task Force was established by the Governor in 1990 to evaluate alternative fuels and develop state policy on the use of alternative fuels.

The Governor has established the "2,000 by 2000" plan to purchase 2,000 AFVs for state use by the year 2000, exceeding the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) requirements.

Act 351 calls for state employees to use ethanol or alternative fuels for all vehicles leased or owned by the state.

The use of alternative fuels is required in vehicles owned by political subdivisions. A Clean Fuel Fleet Program will be established in the state's six severe ozone non-attainment areas. The Clean Fuel Fleet Program includes emission standards, a process for fleet registration and labeling, exemption of Clean Fuel Fleet Vehicles from time-based transportation control measures, and a marketable Clean Fuel Fleet Vehicle credit trading program.

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Laws & Regulations (cont.)

A law enacted in 1984 deregulated the use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel.

The state has initiated public-private partnerships to stimulate ethanol, CNG, propane, methanol, and biodiesel fuels infrastructure and use.

Points of Contact

Wisconsin (SE Area) Clean Cities Coordinator

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Administration

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UW-Milwaukee Center for Alternative Fuels

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Madison Gas and Electric

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National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition

Phil Lambert (314) 635-8445

Public Service Corporation

William Schreiner (414) 433-2946

Wisconsin Fuel and Light

Rick Braenne (715) 847-6217

Wisconsin Gas

Bob Inda (414) 291-6426

Wisconsin Natural Gas

Gary Evans (414) 574-2040

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Robert Biebel (414) 547-6721

Green Bay-Brown County Planning Commission

Chris Knight (414) 448-3400

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Kenneth Theine (414) 751-4770

Wisconsin State Transportation Contact

Department of Transportation
James McDonnell (608) 266-7575

Wisconsin State Energy Office

Wisconsin Energy Bureau
Don Wichert (608) 266-7312

U.S. Department of Energy Regional Support Office

Chicago Regional Support Office
Melinda Latimer (312) 886-8582

U.S. Department of Transportation Contacts

Federal Highway Administration

Region 5
Sam Herrera (708) 283-3536

Federal Transit Administration

Region 5
Doug Gerleman (312) 353-2789

General Services Administration

Regional Fleet Manager

Region 5
Grant Jahr (312) 353-5379

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator

Region 5
Phil Kaplan (312) 353-4669